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# WILLIAM H. PARKER

(Late a Representative from South Dakota)

# MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Sixtieth Congress
Second Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 14, 1909

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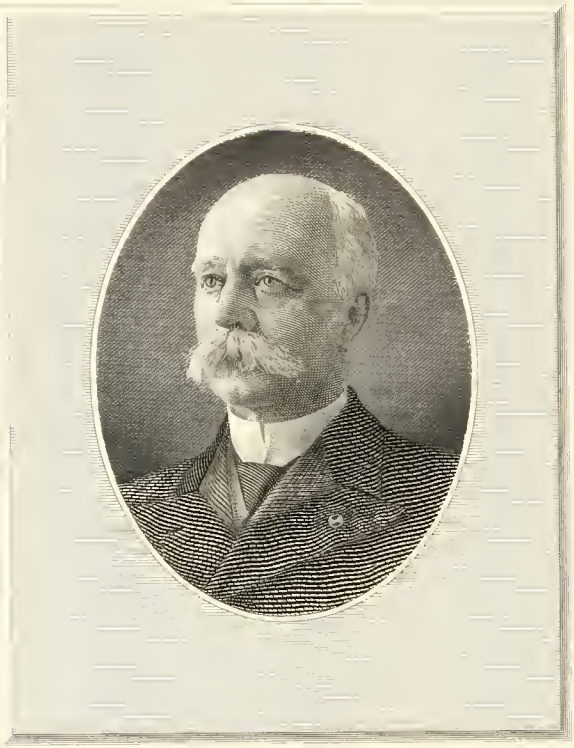

# DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM H. PARKER

## PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

MONDAY, *December 7, 1908.*

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution, which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, a Representative from the State of South Dakota, who died at his home in Deadwood, S. Dak., on June 25, 1908.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of our deceased colleague, Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

Accordingly, at 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p. m., the House adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock noon.

TUESDAY, *January 19, 1909.*

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration of the following order.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Ordered*, That there be a session of the House at 12 m., Sunday, February 14, for the delivery of eulogies on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, late a Member of this House from South Dakota.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

The question was taken, and the order was agreed to.

SUNDAY, *February 14, 1909.*

The House met at 12 o'clock m.

Prayer by the Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., as follows:

Our Father in heaven, we meet here on this sacred day to fulfill a sacred mission. We are come to pay a tribute of love and respect to men who served with distinction their country in the Congress of the United States, than which no greater service, if faithfully and efficiently done, can be rendered to one's country. Teach us how to be true to ourselves, how to be patriots in times of peace, how to be philanthropists, that we may feel bound to contribute something to our neighbor, to the public weal, and to the uplift of humanity; that we may be, indeed, followers of the world's great Exemplar, and departing, leave the world a little better than we found it.

Inspire the men who shall speak here to-day that they may bring out the sterling qualities of their departed colleagues; that they may be an example to those who shall come after them. Comfort us all with the blessed hope of the immortality of the soul, and be especially near to the families who mourn the loss of their dear ones that they may look forward with bright anticipations to a world where sorrows never come, and where they shall dwell together with their loved ones forever. And glory and honor be Thine through Him who revealed the immortality of the soul to the world. Amen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OVERSTREET). The Clerk will report the first special order.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. Martin, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That there be a session of the House at 12 m. Sunday, February 14, for the delivery of eulogies on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, late a Member of this House from South Dakota.

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions, which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, late a Member of this House from the State of South Dakota, which occurred at his home in the city of Deadwood, June 26, 1908.

*Resolved*, That the business of the House is now suspended that opportunity may be given to pay tribute to his memory.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public service, the House at the conclusion of the memorial exercises of the day shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolutions.

The resolutions were agreed to.

# MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

## ADDRESS OF MR. HALL, OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. SPEAKER: It is with mingled feelings of sadness and hope that I undertake to pay this final tribute to my deceased friend and colleague in this body. It is with a feeling of sadness because of the loss of a companionship which I prized highly, and the memory of which I sacredly cherish. It is with a feeling of sadness because I realize that in his death his splendid family sustained the loss of a loving and devoted husband and father. It is with a feeling of sadness because by his departure the State of South Dakota lost one of its most honored, respected, and patriotic citizens, one whose bright intellect and sturdy integrity have been interwoven in many ways in the fabric of her laws and social life. It is with a feeling of hope that what has been our loss has been his gain. It is with a feeling of hope because he has departed from this world of sickness, pain, trouble, and sorrow, and has gone to a sphere of existence where these are unknown, where all is brightness and happiness and peace.

We can not approach the subject of death with aught but reverence. It is the great unexplainable mystery. Sages and philosophers for ages have vainly endeavored to discover the source of life and the effect of death. It is the secret which the Omnipotent One has wisely and mercifully withheld from us. But enough has been revealed to us that we may know that life does not end at the grave. As the new-born infant

instinctively takes nourishment at the mother's breast, so every human being, though unlearned and uncultured, has within his breast the instinctive feeling of immortality. It has been said that "the gods conceal from men the happiness of death that they may endure life."

I shall allude briefly to some of those principal incidents which, like milestones, mark and indicate our lamented colleague's upright life, his noble character, and his patriotic and active civil and military service. WILLIAM H. PARKER was born May 5, 1847, enlisted in the Union Army May 27, 1861, at Portsmouth, N. H., and was mustered into service, to take effect the same date, as a musician, in Company H, Second New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, to serve three years, and was discharged from the service August 28, 1861, at Bladensburg, Md., being unfit for duty as a drummer.

He was again enrolled September 4, 1862, at Keene, N. H., and was mustered into service September 22, 1862, at Concord, N. H., as a private, Company G, Fourteenth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry, to serve three years. He was transferred some time in January or February, 1864, to Company A, Sixth Regiment Invalid Corps, which organization was afterwards designated Company A, Sixth Regiment U. S. Veteran Reserve Corps. He was mustered out of service, as of that company and regiment, April 28, 1865, at Cincinnati, Ohio, to enable him to accept promotion as second lieutenant in the Sixth U. S. Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered into service April 29, 1865, at Cincinnati, Ohio, as second lieutenant Company C, Sixth U. S. Volunteer Infantry, to serve three years, and was mustered out and honorably discharged the service with the company October 15, 1866, at Fort Kearney, Nebr. He was brevetted first lieutenant of volunteers March 13, 1865, for faithful and meritorious services.

He married Miss Clara E. Thomas, of Washington, D. C., January 27, 1867, the result of the union being 11 children, 8 of whom are living. Graduated from the law department of the Columbian University, Washington, D. C., class of 1868. Was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the District of Columbia immediately after his graduation. Appointed collector of internal revenue of Colorado Territory by General Grant, President, June 24, 1874. Resigned July, 1876, upon his appointment as assistant United States attorney of Colorado Territory. Was subsequently appointed United States attorney of Colorado. Removed to Deadwood, Dak., July, 1877, where, since said time up to the time of his death, he engaged in the practice of his profession. Was elected a member of the constitutional convention of the proposed State of South Dakota June 30, 1885. November 3, 1885, was elected a member of the state senate from Lawrence County, but owing to the fact that South Dakota was not admitted as a State until 1889, he did not serve. Was elected a member of the house of representatives of South Dakota in 1880. Was elected states attorney of Lawrence County in November, 1902, and reelected in 1904. Was elected to the Sixtieth Congress November, 1906. He departed this life at Deadwood, S. Dak., June 26, 1908, in the sixty-first year of his age.

Colonel PARKER while in this body was a member of the Committee on the Militia and of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and it is somewhat indicative of the generosity of his nature and of his interest in military affairs that of the thirty-odd bills which he introduced in the last session of Congress two-thirds at least were bills either for pensions or otherwise for the relief of worthy and distressed soldiers and the widows of soldiers. His death occurred within a month after he had

left Washington, where he had been in faithful attendance upon this House.

I had known Colonel PARKER for upward of twenty years, but became more intimately acquainted with him during the last year of his life. I had known him as an able lawyer, as a member of the constitutional convention, a member of the state legislature, as a worthy and respected citizen of the State. Later, upon closer acquaintance, we became friends. He was one of those friends who was such not only in fair weather, but in foul; not only in times of prosperity, but in times of adversity and of trouble. Unfortunately his continued illness during the last session of this Congress prevented him from becoming intimately acquainted with many of his colleagues. To say that he or any man is without faults would be an exaggeration.

We all have our faults. "To err is human, to forgive divine." His faults, if any, were such as are common to those of his generous nature and amiable disposition, and they were so few and of such minor importance that they were eclipsed by his many virtues as the stars are eclipsed by the noonday sun. He could not see want and distress unrelieved, even to the extent of giving his last dollar. He came always to the relief of the afflicted.

Going to the Territory of Dakota in 1877 and locating at Deadwood, then a mining camp, he was one of those hardy pioneers who materially assisted in building up a splendid commonwealth. He was one of those who assisted in bringing order out of chaos, in subduing the lawless and turbulent element which is usually found in an early mining camp; and he lived to see it develop into the richest hundred square miles in the world, populated by a law-abiding, peaceful, industrious, and prosperous people. One might inquire why with all this

opportunity he did not accumulate great wealth. The answer is very simple. His generous nature and his ever-present desire to assist others would not permit it. In the death of Colonel PARKER the State has sustained a great loss. He took an important part in framing the constitution of that State, a constitution which is generally conceded to be a model.

As a member of the state legislature he was the author of many meritorious bills which became crystallized into the laws of that State. As a lawyer he was noted for his ability as a counselor and as an advocate, as well as for his fidelity to his clients. The reports of the supreme court of the State bear evidence of his legal ability and his success at the bar of that tribunal. The Lawrence County bar, of which he was a respected member, paid a beautiful final tribute to his memory by resolutions adopted by that body. I had the honor to be a member of the committee which attended his burial service, and was impressed, as his body lay in state in the city hall of Deadwood, by the great number of sympathetic friends and neighbors who came to look for the last time upon the face of their departed friend. The ceremonies were conducted under the auspices of his old comrades, the Grand Army of the Republic.

When Colonel PARKER was elected state's attorney of Lawrence County he found that the laws prohibiting gambling and regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors were, as they had been for years, flagrantly violated. In obedience to his duty as he saw it, and with the courage to express and enforce his convictions, he closed the gambling joints and caused their apparatus to be destroyed and compelled the saloon keepers to obey the law. To him the grateful people of his county extended the due meed of praise for having suppressed and cleansed the community of these vices.

Realizing his failing health and evidently with a premonition of death, Colonel PARKER told me a few days before I left Washington for home that he had selected a site in Arlington Cemetery where he desired that he might be buried, and there in that beautiful city of the soldier dead, overlooking the placid and historic waters of the Potomac, now lie the earthly remains of my colleague.

It is only in those homes where the grim destroyer has entered that the full import of death is felt. The cheering voice is silent, the willing, helpful hands are still. The empty chair, the vacant place at the table, are silent but eloquent evidences of him who has gone. To the bereaved ones the sun does not shine as brightly or the birds sing as sweetly as before. The charms and pleasures of life have lost their attractiveness. The one who has gone before is as a magnet that calls them to heavenly thoughts and things. Yet it is not despair, but resignation. He has gone to await their coming, and with that faith in immortality which inspires hope, they know that they will meet again. We may strew his grave with beautiful flowers expressive of our love and esteem, we may here recount his virtues and his services to his country and express our sympathy to the bereaved family, but hope and comfort must come to them from a source infinitely higher than from us poor fallible mortals. I know of no more concrete, hopeful, authoritative assurance than that which is contained in the words of our Saviour when He said:

> Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My word and believeth on Him who sent Me shalt have everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life.

The final summons came to our beloved colleague at an age when the twilight shadows of life were lengthening toward the east, and surrounded by his loved ones to whom he was so devotedly attached, he fearlessly, calmly, and peacefully en-

tered into the great beyond. But let us indulge in the hope of a happy reunion with him and our other friends and dear ones who have gone before in a place where there are no tears and no more partings.

> Eternal Hope! when yonder spheres sublime
> Peal'd their first notes to sound the march of time,
> Thy joyous youth began, but not to fade
> When all thy sister planets have decay'd,
> When wrapt in flames the clouds of ether glow,
> And heaven's last thunder shakes the world below,
> Thou, undismay'd, shalt o'er the ruins smile,
> And light thy torch at Nature's funeral pile.

## Address of Mr. Gronna, of North Dakota

Mr. Speaker: It is fitting when one of our number lays down his work and consigns himself to the last sleep, that we pause for a brief moment and pay tribute to his memory. It is well to consider his life, his endeavors, and his achievements, that we may learn from his failures and rejoice in his successes.

We have assembled to-day to honor the memory of William H. Parker, of South Dakota. At the time of his death I had known him but a comparatively short time, but I had learned to regard him with the highest esteem. Born in 1847, he was but 14 years of age when the civil war broke out. He answered the call to arms, however, and gave five years of his early youth in eager, unselfish service to his country. At the end of the war he took up his work in the walks of civil life. He graduated from the law department of what was then the Columbian University in this city in 1868 and was immediately admitted to the bar. He was appointed collector of internal revenue of Colorado by President Grant in 1874, was appointed assistant United States attorney of Colorado in 1876, and was subsequently appointed United States attorney of Colorado. In July, 1877, he moved to Deadwood, Dak., and engaged in the practice of law.

His neighbors, however, soon recognized his abilities and called upon him to take part in public life. He served as a member of the constitutional convention in 1885, served as a member of the South Dakota legislature, as states attorney of his county, and as a Member of Congress, and in every office that he was called to fill he performed his duties faithfully and did his work well. He had served but a short time in Congress when an all-

wise Providence cut his life short, but his previous training in public life stood him in good stead and enabled him to do efficient work from the first. All his associates felt that had he been permitted to serve a few more years, he would have left his mark on much important legislation.

He had a keen intellect, showed marked ability as a lawyer, and was a leader of men. The high devotion to his country that he showed when, as a mere boy, he risked his life in her service was always evident in his performance of all public duties. His genial disposition won him many friends, and there are few men who go to their graves more sincerely loved and mourned by his associates than WILLIAM H. PARKER. And sincerely regretting his departure, we take leave of him with the words:

His faults write upon the sands; his virtues on the tablets of our memories.

## Address of Mr. Keifer, of Ohio

Mr. Speaker: In earlier days in the Congress of the United States we were in the habit of stopping in the course of our business day's legislation to recount the history and speak of the character and commemorate the memory of our dead. Perhaps it is well now that we take the Sabbath day to come here for a like purpose. I was not, Mr. Speaker, intimately acquainted with the Member from South Dakota, William H. Parker. He came into this Congress after a long life of preparation for the work that confronted him here. I can not speak of his personal achievements in civil life nor of his long and gallant career in the Army of the Union in times of war. I knew his genial character, and I was drawn to him because he was a soldier in the Union Army in the civil war. With a rare exception here and there, he was the youngest of those who went into the civil war to fight for the preservation of the Union. A child (14 years of age), in fact, when he first enlisted in 1861, blossoming with youth and not yet into mature manhood, he went with his regiment and comrades of the State of New Hampshire to the field. Difficulties always arose in such cases with persons so young, and yet he persisted, and with a second enlistment, and so on, to the end of the civil war.

Like some others who showed their military spirit and courage in that war, he became a solider, or, rather, an officer, in the United States Army without preparation in the military sense or in an educational sense for military duties. He became a natural soldier, and by serving in the field, in campaigns, bivouacking with the soldiers without tents, and in battle he acquired the true inspiration of an officer. His war experience

stood at the close of the civil war with him for a graduation at the Military Academy at West Point. At 19 years of age he became a lieutenant in the United States Army. There were few others who went into the Regular Army under like circumstances. The present senior colonel of the Quartermaster's Department of the United States Army was a marked example of a child going into the civil war and from that, with an interval in civil life, to service in the Regular Army, and he now stands as the senior colonel and quartermaster in that great department of the United States Army. I refer to Col. John L. Clem, once known as the "Drummer boy of Chickamauga." But, Mr. Speaker, we are to speak of the dead. We often hesitate and sometimes fail to stop in our daily career to honor the dead, but look forward to the living. I had a peculiar sensation come over me a few months ago when I had climbed to a mountain summit in the Yosemite Park, California, and up to the great Mariposa trees. These trees range in height from 200 to 350 feet, higher perhaps. I looked around at that marvelous growth of nature, and as I rode along I came across a great redwood tree lying prone full length upon the ground.

I looked in amazement and with mingled sorrow and regret at that lone, fallen tree which had stood through the centuries, as it lay amongst its living, standing comrades. But what a curiosity to inspect, to take its measurements in length and diameter, and see what nature had produced there in that wonderful mountain park! My interest centered around this mammoth tree, dead, decayed; but in the providence of things earthly it had fulfilled its mission and though fallen was monarch of all of them.

So we turn to those who have fallen among us here and view what they have been in life and see that they, though dead, still have fulfilled their mission on earth among men.

The last fiscal year showed that of those soldiers of the civil war who drew pensions 23,353 had died. That great, grand army of the Union is to pass away. Nature makes this inevitable. But Mr. PARKER as one of them fulfilled his duty with them and did his full share from childhood to manhood, which came early with him, and aided in accomplishing the greatest thing for civilization and humanity and personal liberty that has ever been accomplished in all the ages.

From the decrees of war, that war from 1861 to 1865, we mark a new era all around the world. We have seen, and we are still seeing, and we shall see, the glories of the things accomplished in our own country, but that does not tell half the tale. The liberty of man has extended to autocratic Russia, to other lands where oppression fell heavily upon the masses; and while we are here to-day, the people in Persia, taking spirit from what occurred here in our civil war, are fighting for civil liberty. And even the Sultan of Turkey is negotiating with the young, spirited Mohammedans and granting them a share of human liberty. This is all traceable back, in my opinion, to what was accomplished here in this land by the civil war.

I have said enough, Mr. Speaker, to bear my testimony to that highest thing incident to a citizen of our country, to wit, patriotic duty, which inspired our deceased colleague here. In the performance of duty none can stand higher than WILLIAM H. PARKER, whose life and character we commemorate here to-day.

## Address of Mr. Martin, of South Dakota

Mr. Speaker: Col. William H. Parker represented the State of South Dakota as a Member of this House of Representatives only a little more than a year, when he was stricken suddenly and died on the 26th day of last June.

For twenty-eight years we had been residents of the same town and have practiced law before the same courts. In the daily life of the citizen and in the forum of the courts I have had good opportunity to test his quality as a man and public servant. He succeeded me as a Member of this body, and now, by reason of the fatality of death, I am in turn succeeding him. It is not inappropriate, therefore, that I should offer this modest tribute in his memory.

Colonel Parker had the instincts and bearing of the soldier. The war of the rebellion was on during the years of his young manhood. He enlisted in the Union Army before that struggle had proceeded ninety days, and he was still wearing the blue when the confederate forces surrendered under General Lee. Indeed, he continued in the Regular Army until the fall of 1866, when he resigned from the service at Kearney, Nebr. The bearing and deportment of the military gentleman remained with him to the end of his life.

The events of the war of the rebellion have long since passed into history. Let us hope that the tremendous issues involved in that mighty struggle may never be lost to the understanding and to the benefit not only of this land of ours, but of universal humanity.

Every student of our Constitution is necessarily struck with the fact, historical as it is, that in at least one particular this

great instrument, this charter of liberty of our people, was the result of compromise. It is true that that compromise grew out of a condition—a condition by which much of the labor of the Southern States was performed by slaves; and it is probable—indeed, I think it is generally agreed by historians—that without the making of that compromise our Constitution would not have been formed. That compromise was to the effect that the African slave trade should continue for a period not to exceed twenty years, and that the slave condition in the particular States where it had become established as an institution might continue indefinitely. Those were the provisions placed in that immortal instrument which tended toward slavery rather than universal liberty. It was a yielding of principle to expediency. In the progress of years it became manifest, as was said by the immortal Lincoln, that this land could not permanently endure half slave and half free. Slavery was therefore the irritating cause of the rebellion, but the permanency, the existence, indeed, of the Nation itself, was the rallying call, that summoned the loyal men of the North and the South to the defense of the Union.

Colonel PARKER, young man as he was, devoted more years of his life to the protection of that principle of union in this Nation than was accorded to but few patriots. That struggle developed. It cost an infinite amount of treasure. It cost in the neighborhood of a million of young lives, the very flower of the manhood of America; but it was worth all that it cost. As a result, our flag emerged from the smoke of battle to float forever over a Nation every individual of which shall be forever free. The Constitution was purged of its iniquity, and it is now one consistent whole, based upon the principles of universal liberty.

If this Constitution was worthy to be venerated before the civil war, certainly it is now entitled to the love and to the

patriotic devotion of the people of our country for all time to come.

Colonel PARKER was a native of New Hampshire, and married in the city of Washington in 1867. He graduated from the law department of the Columbian University, now the George Washington University, in this city, in 1868. From that time forth he became identified with the development of the West, and lived continuously in the West, first in Colorado and then in the Territory of Dakota and subsequent State of South Dakota.

It is in his profession as a practicing lawyer that Colonel PARKER is best known, and it is here that he carved out his most eminent career. He was made assistant United States attorney for Colorado Territory by President Grant in 1874, and became later United States attorney for the State of Colorado. He moved to Deadwood, in the then Territory of Dakota, in 1877, and for the thirty-one years until his death he was in the constant practice of his profession.

He was an eminent and gifted lawyer. By natural talent and education he was well equipped for his profession. An orator of ability, possessing an unerring judgment in discovering the strong points of his case, with consummate skill in the presentation of his cause to the jury, he made a most formidable legal antagonist, particularly in the trial of jury cases. His specialty was the criminal law, and for years he was easily the leading criminal lawyer in western Dakota.

Near the close of his life he served two terms as state's attorney for the county in which he lived. He brought to the service of the State and county a proficiency acquired during a long career in the practice of his profession. As public prosecutor he discharged the official duties of his position with an ability and success seldom equaled and never excelled in the

administration of the state's attorneyship of his county. It was during his term that a moral movement for the enforcement of the laws against gambling was undertaken and successfully prosecuted. The credit for this is due, in large part, to the courage and ability of Colonel PARKER in the fearless discharge of his duty as prosecuting attorney. The results of that movement have been far-reaching and will be permanent.

The fatal malady which overcame him was upon him for two or three weeks before his death. It was apparent to his friends and to himself that the end was at hand. His courage was unfailing. He responded to the summons of the "grim destroyer" with fortitude and confidence. He approached his grave—

> As one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him,
> And lies down to pleasant dreams.

His body rests in Arlington Cemetery, in appropriate recognition of his long and honorable service in defense of his country and in suggestive nearness to the scenes of his gallant young manhood.

## PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

TUESDAY, *December 8, 1908.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE.

The message communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, late a Representative from the State of South Dakota, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

Mr. GAMBLE. Mr. President, I submit the resolution which I send to the desk and ask for its adoption.

The resolution was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. WILLIAM H. PARKER, late a Representative from the State of South Dakota.

*Resolved*, That as an additional mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative whose death has been announced the Senate do now adjourn.

The VICE-PRESIDENT. The question is on agreeing to the resolution submitted by the Senator from South Dakota.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Wednesday, December 9, 1908, at 12 o'clock meridian.

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